

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 17, 2012**

Members Present: Thompson, Lardizzone, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Goss, Harden, Keithley, Newman, and Sarg

Members Excused: Lank, Newstadt, Wasson and Weir

Staff Present: Davila and Peterson

Introduction of Guest(s): Charles M. Dorman (VAMC Director), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Bettylou Evans (American Legion), Mike Rowe (LP Lo-DEL), Tom Kelly (MOWW), Linda Boone and Elizabeth Byers Jiron (Home of the Brave), Myron Smith and Gerard Stauffer (DELVETS), John Weidenhof (KWVA) and Kenneth McVicker

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag.

Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Mr. Dorman provided updates on the Georgetown and Dover clinics and announced the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new specialty care clinic at the Wilmington Hospital will occur during *Hospitalized Veterans Week*. He mentioned that they have been collecting data and putting together a little history of what they have been doing at the Wilmington VA and would like to provide a presentation at the next meeting. He answered questions about health care quality, dental care, and dermatology and discussion followed.

Commissioner Sarg added that Generations Health Care Clinic in Dover (behind the Modern Maturity Center) provides free health care and some dental to indigents.

Mr. McMullen wished every one a Happy New Year! He announced the Ruck March on DAFB will be held on February 25, 2012.

Mr. Rowe provided an update on the Incarcerated Veterans Program and spoke about their fundraiser. He thanked American Legion Post 28 and the Ladies Auxiliary for creating "buddy baskets" to help homeless veterans when they move into a new home. He spoke about the homeless program and thanked everyone for their support.

Ms. Byers Jiron provided an update on Home of the Brave and brought up the issue of providing housing for elderly homeless veterans who need medical care. She announced the kick off for this year's Stand Down that is scheduled for February 23, 2012.

Mr. Smith provided an update on DELVETS activities and their participation in the *Toys for Tots* program.

Mr. Weidenhof reported on some of the projects that KWVA are involved in.

Mr. Peterson made a suggestion for getting dental care for homeless veterans. He provided a monthly report for the Delaware Veterans Home and announced they opened the Blue Wing. He talked about funding and how the beds would become available. He announced they are planning a family advisory meeting in February with the date TBA. He answered questions about needed services and future expansion of the Home and discussion followed.

**MOTION BY HARDEN TO ACCEPT DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES, SECONDED BY LARDIZZONE, MOTION CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PERSONNEL**

Vice Chairman Lardizzone reported they will be interviewing for two casual/seasonal positions for the Northern Cemetery on January 23, 2012.

**NORTHERN CEMETERY**

Mr. Davila reported they had a final walk through at the Northern Cemetery for the most recent construction and had only a few minor discrepancies. He also spoke about future beautification and continued maintenance projects. There was a question about the virtual cemetery project and Mr. Davila provided an update. He also reported that new computer systems have been ordered for the three offices and a new phone system will be installed shortly.

**SOUTHERN CEMETERY**

Commissioner Evans reported they had their Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting and all went well.

**HEALTH SERVICES**

Commissioner Corsa announced he has become a member of the Home of the Brave Executive Board and they need money badly.

**COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS**

Chairman Thompson announced that DELVETS has the bridge ceremony for Memorial Day and KWVA has the ceremony at the Northern Cemetery.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

Carroll (MOPH) – Their Department Convention will be held on June 9, 2012, at Dover Downs.

Corsa (VVA) – The northern VVA chapter went to an elder veteran's home and made some repairs.

Evans (American Legion) – They have an Executive Committee meeting this coming Saturday and their National Commander will visit in March 2012.

Goss (KWVA) – They are working on their golf tournament to be held in May 2012.

Keithley (40 & 8) – They have a Grand Delaware meeting this month.

Lardizzone (DAV) – They are getting ready for their Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC in February 2012 and announced the DAV Blue Rocks Game scheduled in May 2012.

Newman (VFW) – They have their Council of Administration for the Department of Delaware on January 17, 2012 at Legislative Hall.

Sarg (MOAA) – The Southern Chapter held a fundraiser dinner in December 2011 with the proceeds being contributed to an outreach program yet to be determined. The Dover Chapter was able to fill up a pick-up truck in support of the *Toys for Tots* program. They will hold their scholarship fundraiser at Dover UNOs on February 17, 2012.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Thompson raised the issue of giving new applicants for the Veterans Home, who have a 70% disability or more, a preference over other applicants and discussion followed. Chairman Thompson closed the discussion and stated that the subject would be brought up again at the next meeting; at which time it will be introduced under Unfinished Business and put forth for a vote.

Vice Chairman Lardizzone presented the issue of raising the cost of a spousal burial to \$500 and discussion followed.

**MOTION BY LARDIZZONE TO RAISE THE COST OF SPOUSAL AND DEPENDENT BURIALS TO \$500 AND REVIEW THE OTHER FEES ASSOCIATED WITH INTERMENTS, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Corsa announced that the Home of the Brave is holding a fundraiser on January 24, 2012, at the “Fish On!” in Lewes, Delaware at 6:30 PM. (<http://www.fishon.bz/>)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 21, 2012 (10:00 AM)**

**LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100  
Dover, DE**

**ADJOURNED**